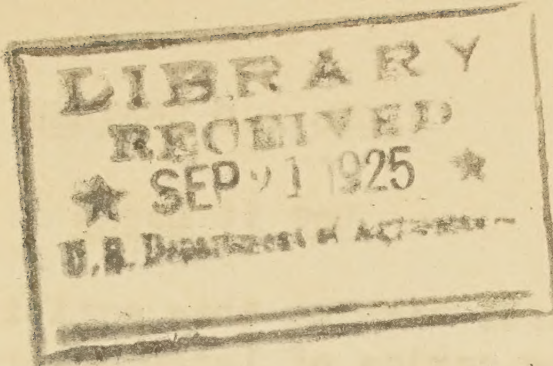


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Ex 4 I



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Extension Service

Office of Exhibits

A Summary of the Exhibit

HIDES AND LEATHER

A booth exhibit showing the best methods for skinning animals; care of country hides and skins; and care of leather goods.

Specifications

Floor space - - - - - 13'3" front 8'2"
Wall space - - - - - None. (deep.
Shipping weight - - - - - 725 lbs.
Electrical requirements - 110 volts A.C.
or D.C. current, 200 watts for small motor
and 4 lights.

HIDES AND LEATHER

How It Looks

Upon first viewing this exhibit one's attention is drawn to the series of large colored photographs which are automatically displayed, one at a time, for a few seconds, in the middle of the center section. These show the successive steps in skinning cattle, calves and sheep. To the right and left of the picture machine are legends explaining the proper method of curing hides and describing a good hide.

The left section is largely covered with specimens of leather showing improper practices in skinning and curing hides. The right section contains several pictures and some specimens of used harness which illustrate the need for proper care of leather.

The booth is 13'3" across the front, 8'3" deep and 7'11" high.

What It Tells

The farmer who safeguards, by careful skinning and curing, the quality of the hides and skins he markets will benefit financially, for hides that have been properly taken off, that are of regular pattern and that show few or no blemishes command the best prices at the tannery. Too often the value of country hides for leather making is lowered by careless methods used in skinning. The result of improper or careless skinning is a hide of irregular pattern and trim, marred by imperfections such as cuts and scores. The yield of leather from such hides is comparatively low and of such inferior quality that the uses to which it may be put are limited.

Hides can be removed in such a manner from animals in good condition that, after properly curing, the leather made from them will be of the first quality. The skinning operation is somewhat difficult to describe but it is adequately illustrated by the series of pictures projected on the center section.

To show the damage to resulting leather from hides having certain defects, there are shown specimens of

leather made from grubby hides, ticky hides and branded hides; specimens of leather showing cuts due to careless skinning; and specimens of leather showing hairslip, rot and salt stains, which defects are due to incomplete and improper curing. These specimens are grouped around and form a sharp contrast to a piece of leather made from a sound hide.

Farmers, as a class, are the largest users of leather and they should be vitally concerned in making it last longer. For instance, harness of the proper weight and grade for the work required should last 15 to 25 years if it is not allowed to become hard or harsh but is kept smooth and flexible by frequent washing and oiling. In treating harness it should be first washed with tepid water and castile soap and, after rinsing in tepid water, hung up to dry. While still moist it should be oiled. Driving belts, machine belts and other articles used by the farmer will also respond to this preservative treatment with increased serviceability and money will be saved that otherwise would have to be spent in replacing them if neglected.

In the center panel of the right section is a photograph of a four-horse team equipped with harness that has been in use for 34 years and is still in use. Accompanying this photograph are two pieces of harness, one of which, because of neglect, is hardly serviceable after three years use while the other, because of frequent cleaning, oiling and prompt repair, is still good after 32 years of service.

Increasing the average life of shoes from six months to eight months means a national saving of at least \$200,000,000 a year. The judicious selection of shoes in the first place and the care that will strengthen and preserve them will double their average life. Three photographs of this exhibit show how to care for shoes.

Where to Get Information

Write to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1055 entitled "Country Hides and Skins; Skinning, Curing and Marketing" which gives full information on the subject.

The farmer who follows these directions will be enabled to sell hides that will produce good leather. Farmers' Bulletin 1183 on "Care of Leather" may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for five cents in coin.